

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 AID-05 IGA-01

EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MC-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 /057 W
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R 231624Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4455

INFO SECDEF WASHDC/OSD-ISA

OJCS WASHDC/J-5

HQ DA WASHDC/DAMO-SAO (LTC PIKE)

CNO WASHDC/OP 63 ADM GERHART

NSC WASHDC/(COL GRANGER)

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY/ECJ4/7

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONROVIA 0441/1

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, MARR, PFOR, PINS, LI

SUBJECT: INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA

REF: (A) MONROVIA A-1 OF JANUARY 6, 1975 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 15489

1. SUMMARY: ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA NEED ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT,

BOTH FOR MILITARY FUNCTIONS AND FOR EVER MORE VALUABLE CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS. IT WOULD BE NOT ONLY IN GOL'S INTEREST BUT ALSO IN USC'S FOR US TO PROVIDE IN FY 76, ON ONE-TIME BASIS, GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN AMOUNT OF 2,500,000 DOLLARS SO THAT AFL MAY PROCURE THIS EQUIPMENT. ALTERNATIVE, BUT MUCH LESS DESIRABLE, METHOD OF FINANCING THIS PROCUREMENT WOULD BE BY INCREASING FMS CREDIT TO LIBERIA IN FY 76 BY SAME AMOUNT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING PERIOD 16-24 DECEMBER 1974 COL ALLEN M. BUCKNER, CHIEF, US MILITARY MISSION TO LIBERIA, WAS IN WASHINGTON PRESENTING A FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR ATTAINMENT OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL). THIS PLAN REALISTICIALLY REFLECTS
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WHAT GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA (GOL) CAN SUPPORT FROM ITS OWN RE-

SOURCES WITH CONTINUING HELP FROM US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. PLAN WAS FULLY COORDINATED WITH THIS EMBASSY AND WITH SECURITY ASSISTANCE STAFF OF HEADQUARTERS EUCOM. IT CARRIES MY PERSONAL APPROVAL AND FULL SUPPORT.

3. BASICALLY PLAN RECOGNIZES CURRENT INABILITY OF AFL TO PERFORM ITS MISSION OF PROVIDING INTERNAL SECURITY FOR LIBERIA. IT ADDRESSES SHORTCOMINGS IN SELF-SUFFICIENCY (TOO GREAT A DEPENDENCE ON US SUPPORT); IN OPERATIONS AND TRAINING; IN LOGISTICS; AND IN QUANTITIES OF MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT. IT PROVIDES FOR ATTAINMENT OF GOALS WHICH WOULD CORRECT THESE DEFICIENCIES TO INCLUDE PURCHASE OF MILITARY AND ENGINEER ITEMS THROUGH US FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) OF APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY THROUGH FY 1980. KEY FACTORS TO SUCCESS OF PLAN ARE 500,000 DOLLARS FMS CREDIT, 500,000 DOLLARS FROM GOL BUDGET, AND 100,000 DOLLARS GRANT-AID TRAINING IN US EACH YEAR THROUGH 1980.

4. TO DATE PLAN, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA, HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTED BY AFL. IN ADDITION TO NOTEWORTHY IMPROVEMENTS IN CAPABILITY OF AFL TO PERFORM ITS MISSION, I HAVE SEEN VERY SIGNIFICANT AND VALUABLE ANCILLARY EFFORTS IN PLAN'S EXECUTION. MORALE AND WELFARE OF SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY CONSTRUCTION OF EXCELLENT FAMILY HOUSING AND PRODUCE (MAINLY RICE) PRODUCTION BY SOLDIERS ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATIONS. CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS BY ENGINEERS AND MEDICS, WHICH WERE FOSTERED BY PLAN, HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN VALUABLE TO WELFARE OF POOR TRIBESMEN, BUT HAVE ENHANCED IMAGE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN RURAL AREAS.

5. I CAN SEE FROM WHAT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED THUS FAR THAT AFL, THROUGH ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND ENGINEERING SKILLS, HAS CAPABILITY OF INCREASING ITS CONSTRUCTION EFFORT AND CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM. BY EXPLOIPNG CURRENT SUCCESSES AFL WOULD HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY BOTH TO INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND TO MAKE AN ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN AREA OF LAND CLEARING OPERATIONS FOR SMALL FARMERS, AFL ENGINEER COULD CLEAR APPROXIMATELY 6,500 ACRES OF UNSUED UPLAND AND SWAMP AREAS ANNUALLY. CULTIVATION OF RICE ON THIS ACCREAGE WOULD PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL 10,000 TO 20,000 TONS OF RICE ANNUALLY, DEPENDING ON MIX OF PRODUCTION BETWEEN UPLAND AND PADDY CULTIVATION. AN
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IMPORTANT NATIONAL GOAL, CITED WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT, IS TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN RICE PRODUCTION (LIBERIA IMPORTED 30,000 TONS OF RICE IN CY 1974). IN ORDER TO REALIZE AFL'S POTENTIAL, HOWEVER, ITS ENGINEERS REQUIRE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT LISTED BELOW. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED FOR MILITARY ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION CAPABILITIES CONSISTENT WITH THEIR SUPPORT ROLE TO AFL FOR INTERNAL SECURITY. CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN WOULD BE

EFFORTS MADE AS SITUATION PERMITS. FOR THAT REASON THE EQUIPMENT IS SHOWN BY DAYS PER YEAR IT WOULD BE DEVOTED TO PURELY MILITARY PURPOSES AND TO CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

300 ANNUAL WORK DAYS
AVAILABLE PER ITEM

MILITARY CIVIC ACTION

5 EACH DOZERS (D5 & D7)	1100	400
3 EACH LOADERS, FRONT END	750	150
4 EACH CONCRETE MIXERS	1200	0
12 EACH TRUCKS, 2 1/2T DUMP	2400	1200
1 EACH TRACTOR, 5T	150	150
2 EACH LOWBOY (25 & 60 T)	300	300
3 EACH CRANE, 12 1/2T	810	90
(DRAGLINE, CONCRETE BUCKETS)		

TOTAL COST, INCLUDING REPAIR PARTS, 690,000 DOLLARS.

6. IN ADDITION TO NEEDS FOR ENGINEER EQUIPMENT, AFL HAS A HIGH PRIORITY REQUIREMENT TO MODERNIZE ITS NATIONAL COAST GUARD. IN ORDER ADEQUATELY TO PATROL ITS COASTAL WATERS, ENFORCE MARITIME LAWS, PREVENT SMUGGLING, PREVENT POLLUTION BY TRANSITING TANKERS, AND PROVIDE FOR AIR-SEA RESCUE, PATROL CRAFT, AIRCRAFT, COMMUNICATIONS GEAR AND SHORE-BASED EQUIPMENT TALLING 1,847,520 DOLLARS WILL BE REQUIRED.

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 /057 W
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R 231624Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4456

INFO SECDEF WASHDC/OSD-ISA

OJCS WASHDC/J-5
HQ DA WASHDC/DAMO-SAO (LTC PIKE)
CNO WASHDC/OP 63 ADM GERHART
NSC WASHDC/(COL GRANGER)
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY/ECJ4/7

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7. FOR BOTH ENGINEER EQUIPMENT AND COAST GUARD MODERNIZATION, GOL WILL REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL 2,537,520 DOLLARS. AS THESE PROGRAMS ARE AN AMENDMENT TO BASIC PLAN FOR ATTAINMENT OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY (PARAS 2 AND 3, ABOVE), ADDITIONAL FUNDS ABOVE ONE MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY DISCUSSED IN PARA 3 ARE REQUIRED. WITH MY CONCURRENCE, COL BUCKNER DISCUSSED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND RATIONALE WITH ADDRESSEES WHILE IN WASHINGTON. I RECOMMEND THAT ALL CONCERNED MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REESTABLISH MATERIEL GRANT AID FOR LIBERIA ON A ONE-TIME BASIS IN AMOUNT OF 2,500,000 DOLLARS. AS IS WELL KNOWN, PUBLIC FINANCE IN LIBERIA IS HARD PRESSED TO MEET REQUIRED GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES. CURRENT DEBT SERVICING DEMANDS ROUGHLY ONE-QUARTER OF NATIONAL EXPENDITURES. ARBITRARY DELETION OF LIBERIA FROM MILITARY MATERIEL GRANT AID IN 1973 CAUGHT AFL ILL PREPARED AND CONSEQUENCES HAVE BEEN HARSH. A ONE-TIME GRANT WOULD EASE SITUATION CONSIDERABLY AND GO A LONG WAY TOWARD ENHANCING OUR POSITION IN LIBERIA. ALTERNATIVE WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEM WOULD BE TO INCREASE FMS CREDIT TO LIBERIA IN FY 76 BY 2,500,000 DOLLARS. I RECOMMEND THIS ALTERNATIVE SHOULD REESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY GRANT AID BE FOUND IMPRACTICABLE.

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8. US MILITARY ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPMENT IN AFL OF COMPLETELY NEW SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN ITSELF AND WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ON AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE DIFFICULT TASKS. PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS HIMSELF SO COMMENDED. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN BOTH GOL AND USG INTEREST TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT RECOMMENDATION OF PARA 7, ABOVE, WILL VALUABLY CONTRIBUTE TO THAT END.

9. LIBERIA IS ONLY COUNTRY ON WEST COAST OF AFRICA WHERE THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT US FOOTHOLD. WE HAVE IMPORTANT INTERESTS HERE BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC. OUR GOOD RELATIONS WITH LIBERIA HAVE BEEN TRADITIONAL AND I THINK TO SOME DEGREE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. SINCE PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS TAKEN OFFICE PREEMINENCE OF US POSITION IN DETERMINATION OF GOL POLICY HAS DIMINISHED. LIBERIAN FOREIGN POLICY HAS BECOME PREOCCUPIED WITH AFRICAN AND THIRD WORLD UNITY AND AFRICAN REGIONALISM AND SUBREGIONALISM, WITH A CONCOMITANT NEED TO DEMONSTRATE GOL FREEDOM FROM US TUTELAGE. OUR ABILITY TO COUNT ON GOL SUPPORT IN CRISIS SITUATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE REQUIRING DEPLOYMENT OF US FORCES, HAS

BEEN CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED. I BELIEVE THAT IF WE SHOULD PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE OUTLINED IN THIS MESSAGE WE WOULD ENHANCE OUR POSSIBILITIES FOR GOL SUPPORT IN SUCH SITUATIONS. IN PRESENT PERIOD OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY FOR GOL WE ALREADY FORESEE CALLS ON US FOR ASSISTANCE (MONROVIA A-1). PROPOSED MODEST SUPPORT WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN AS EVIDENCE OF USG CONCERN ABOUT THESE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND INURE TO US CREDIT, WITH POSSIBLE ADVANTAGEOUS IMPLICATIONS NOT ONLY FOR US INFLUENCE HERE, BUT ALSO FOR TERMS ON WHICH US FACILITIES HERE ARE HELD.

10. FOREGOING DRAFTED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF STATE 15489. NEVERTHELESS, I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE MY RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE ACTED UPON FAVORABLY, FOR IT FALLS EXACTLY WITHIN US OBJECTIVES SET FORTH IN PARA 6A (2) AND (3) THEREOF.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT 2,500,000 DOLLARS MILITARY GRANT AID BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOL IN FY 76. AN ALTERNATIVE, BUT MUCH LESS DESIRABLE, WOULD BE THAT SAME AMOUNT BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THAT PERIOD AS AN INCREASE IN FMS CREDIT TO LIBERIA.
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